REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the Application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application with claims 1, 14, 21, and 29 being independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 21-36, 39, and 40 are allowed and that claims 3, 5-13, 15, and 17-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For at least the reasons detailed below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims should be considered allowable.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 14, 16, and 37-38 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hoshino (US 5,363,218). This rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims.

As previously submitted, independent claims 1 and 14 are directed to a color gamut compression apparatus and method for converting a source color generated by an information-input apparatus into a target color inside a color gamut reproducible by an information-output apparatus. The apparatus includes: a point of

convergence computation part for computing a point of convergence for a chromatic color such that the point of convergence has the same hue value as a hypothetical chromatic color that would be reproduced by the information-output apparatus based on a digital signal value for the information-input apparatus corresponding to a color determined by the source color, and lies inside the color gamut of the information output apparatus; a first point of compression computation part for computing a point of compression such that the point of compression lies on a substantially straight line connecting the point of convergence and the source color, and lies inside the color gamut of the information-output apparatus; and a compression part for converting the source color into the target color corresponding to the point of compression computed by said first point of compression computation part.

Hoshino is directed to a color estimation method that transforms a color image data of a first media so as to be reproduced by a second media. More specifically, the chroma of the color image data is compared with a threshold value and then the chroma is compressed on the basis of a comparison result without changing the hue.

Applicants respectfully submit that Hoshino fails to teach or suggest at least a point of convergence computation part for computing a point of convergence for a chromatic color such that

the point of convergence has the same hue value as a hypothetical chromatic color that would be reproduced by the information-output apparatus, as recited in independent claims 1 and 14.

The Examiner alleges that Hoshino teaches this feature supposedly in col. 11, line 60, to col. 12, line 4. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that because the hue in Hoshino is fixed, the hue value of the point of convergence cannot have the same hue value as a hypothetical chromatic color. In other words, the hue value of Hoshino does not change, whereas, the hue valued of the point of convergence of the present invention changes on the basis of the computation.

Applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to Fig. 9 of Hoshino, whereby it can be clearly seen that the value "C" is set on the axis of the lightness L^*. Referring also to Fig. 8 and page 3, line 8, to page 4, line 27, of the present application, there is shown a related-art color gamut compression method, which is similar to the compression method as taught by Hoshino, that has a point of convergence being provided on the achromatic L^* axis. Because the point of convergence is provided on the L^* axis, and because of the discrepancy between the color space and the characteristic of the human visual system, "compression performed within the same hue may cause an image before compression to be visually different from an image after compression," and

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thus, if the "color space compresses within the same hue, it is difficult to ensure satisfactorily high visual consistency with respect to hue," (emphasis added) see page 4, lines 11 to 20, of the present application.

In contrast thereto, and referring to Fig. 5 of the present application it can be clearly seen that the point of convergence is set to a point that is apart from the L* axis, where L* indicates brightness. Therefore, "precision in visual matching with respect to hue is increased," see page 50, lines 8 to 10. Thus, in view of the above discussion, it should now be evident that Hoshino does not anticipate at least independent claims 1 and 14.

Dependent claims 2, 4, 16, and 37-38 should be considered allowable at least for depending on an allowable base claim.

Accordingly, in view of the above discussion, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully

requested to contact Martin R. Geissler (Reg. No. 51,011) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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